

VZCZCXRO6450
OO RUEHPT
DE RUEHBY #0031 0130624
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 130624Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2517
INFO RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 5169
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 5162
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 6898
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T CANBERRA 000031

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/IR MICHAEL G. SPRING AND BRIANNE MARWAHA;
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA CAROLEE WALKER; P; NSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/13/2020
TAGS: [CASC](#) [IR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PROP](#) [PTER](#) [AS](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIANS HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF AMCIT
PRISONERS WITH IRANIANS

REF: 09 STATE 129480

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Edgard Kagan for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) Australia has urged Iran to release the six AmCits in its custody (reftel). Deborah Stokes, First Assistant Secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), South and West Asia, Middle East and Africa Division saw the Iranian Ambassador, Mahmoud Movahhedi, January 12 and conveyed the GOA's concern for the six AmCits held in Iranian custody, urging that Iran release them as quickly as possible. There was no substantive response. DFAT's Marnie Wright of the Middle East Section reported the meeting to the embassy January 12.

¶2. (S) Wright also told us that the Australian embassy has not yet delivered the same message because there have been problems getting any appointments with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The embassy does have previously promised appointments with other ministries, however, and plans to include its concern for the six Americans in its presentations at one of these. DFAT will inform us as soon as the embassy has delivered the message.

BLEICH